



Chapter Chatter



Volume 80

2026 Look Forward



D/FW TEXAS USA CHAPTER –

Director 2026-2027

Brandon Lebonty

bear@dfwhog.com



Dear D/FW H.O.G. Chapter Members,

I thought I would take a moment to introduce myself. Many of you already know me well but many of you do not. I would like to change that so I thought I would begin by telling you a little about myself. I figured no

better place to start than the beginning. No not that beginning. I am not about to bust out baby photos and drawings from when I was five so you can take a deep breath. When I say the 'beginning' I mean the moment that I decided I would dedicate a part of my life to riding motorcycles.

Unlike many of you I didn't really grow up riding bikes. I had one summer when my mom thought it would be just fine if I rode a little Suzuki RM 80. However, after a few months, and a scary faceplant that hobby came to an abrupt stop. As much as I enjoyed myself, my Mom was the boss, and the boss said no. She had a way of saying no that would make the hair of my neck stand up straight so that was the end of that. It wasn't until her death at the age of 17 that I debated skipping out on college to ride motorcycles across the country in an effort to be free, to be free of the pain of losing her, and to see the country alone. However, I had many good role models in my life that showed me that continuing with my education was the better decision. On their advice, I tucked that desire to feel the wind in my face at 90mph into the back regions of my soul only to awaken again in my 40s.

Shortly after meeting my now beautiful wife Jackie we were invited to go on a surfing trip in Nicaragua of all places. See there is a beach down there just outside Tola, Nicaragua that breaks so perfectly, over and over, you just don't want to leave. We rented a Spanish style beachfront home steps from the water, and between the dark rum and the water, I hadn't the slightest clue that my life was about to change. We had a few days where the waves just died. When you are used to riding 6-8 ft waves on either a surfboard or bodyboard (boogie board for you Texans) there is a part of you that wants to curse at the ocean and stay inside when the swell drops the waves to 1-2 feet. In an effort to see some of the country, and keep some of our sanity, all of us decided that we were going to ride motorcycles for the week. What a great way to kill time right? The place we rented them from was this dingy little motorcycle shop within the gated beach community we were staying. These weren't Harleys. If you think I was going to tell you that I hopped on top of a Road Glide after 32 years of not sitting on a bike I am sorry to disappoint you. We had no such luck. I rode a black and blue YZ 250 that had definitely done some miles. This bike was pretty bad. The front brakes were almost out. I blew a tire in the middle of Tola. My helmet smelled like some of the locals had used it for a bedpan. The first time I rode it I didn't know how to use the clutch. One of my best friends had to get on the back of the bike with me and show me how to work the gas and clutch. I will spare you all the comments that came my way. How embarrassing right? To make matters worse, 2 of my friends combined for 6 accidents during the trip. The last accident got one of them sent to the local hospital for

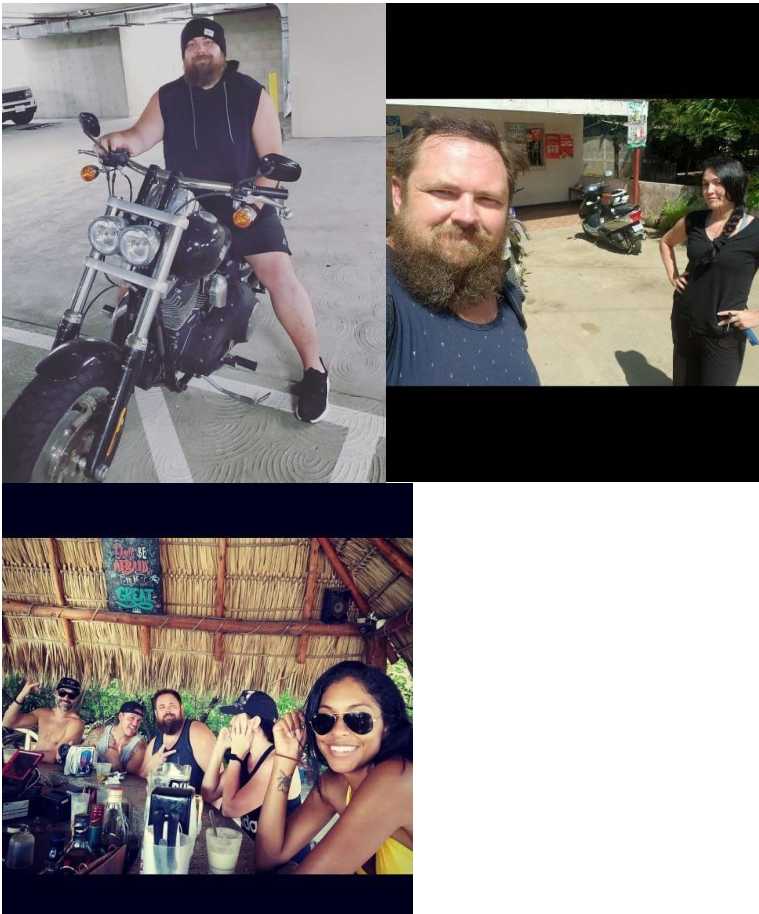
stitches. By all accounts I should not have loved this as much as I did. I should have wanted to throw the bike in a ditch and left it there. I didn't. Passion Awoken.

My then fiancé and I made it back to San Diego a couple weeks later. I immediately got my endorsement and I met my neighbor at the California DMV and told him what I was doing. Serendipitously, he was in dire need of selling his Harley, and at the time was hiding out from Harley Finance who was looking to repo the bike for missed payments. Unbeknownst to me at the time, I had been parking in front of my soon to be motorcycle every day for 2 years. I knew the bike well. It was an old 2008 Fat Bob and I loved her. I was way too big for that bike but I loved her nonetheless. I rode that bike all over the California coast. When we left California for Chicago back in 2019 that bike is what kept me sane during the pandemic. The only mask I liked wearing was a Harley Davidson helmet. I rode that bike every day I could until we ended up here in Texas a few years after and I traded her in for the bike I ride now.

It is a pleasure to meet you all. I hope every single one of you loves to ride as much as I do. We are all here because we either love to ride, or we love someone who loves to ride. I hope to get to know each and every one of you better. I am thankful and humbled to lead our chapter into 2026 and I promise to be a good steward of this club while I am in a position of leadership. If you ever want to chat about bikes, about the club, or about life reach out to me anytime. We are lucky to have such a wonderful passion. Always remember why you are here.

Ride Safe and Ride Free,

Brandon "The Bear" LaBonty
Director





D/FW TEXAS USA CHAPTER

Assistant Director

Chris Maedel

chris@dfwhog.com

Hello HOG family!

My name is Chris Maedel, and I'm thrilled to serve as your Assistant Director. Having ridden with the DFW HOG chapter for the past five years, I have truly cherished the camaraderie and fellowship within our group. I ride a 2020 Street Glide and have clocked over 60k miles since joining the chapter. As you can see, we ride!

I would love for you to join us on one of our exhilarating weekend rides or adventurous overnight trips to some of our favorite destinations. Whether it's exploring the scenic beauty of Medicine Park, OK, cruising through the legendary Three Sisters near Kerrville, TX, or embarking on one of my personal favorites, the breathtaking Talimena National Scenic Byway in OK/AR, there's always an adventure waiting for us.

Be sure to check our calendar for all the exciting details, or feel free to reach out to me directly at ChrisMaedel71@gmail.com.

I'm looking forward to riding with you and creating unforgettable memories together!

D/FW TEXAS USA CHAPTER

JON COX

Treasurer/Road Captain

Jon.h.cox.88@gmail.com



D/FW TEXAS USA CHAPTER

Out-going Director/Secretary/Road Captain

Scott Cromeens

2025 IS ALMOST IN THE BOOKS. LET ME TAKE A MINUTE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR A WONDERFUL 2 YEARS AS A CHAPTER DIRECTOR. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND TIME. FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW ALREADY BRANDON LABONTY IS GOING TO BE TAKING THE REINS FOR 2026. I'LL LET HIM TAKE IT FROM HERE. I'M GOING TO STEP INTO THE SECRETARY ROLE THIS YEAR KEEP PUTTING MILES ON.

2025 WAS AN AMAZING YEAR OF GREAT RIDES AND GREAT FRIENDS. IN SEPTEMBER JON AND RACHEL COX JOINED TERA AND ME FOR A 3000 MILE ADVENTURE IN 3 STATES. TEXAS TO TUCUMCARI, NM. THEN TO SOUTH FORK COLORADO FOR THE MILLION DOLLAR HIGHWAY. THE TRIP ENDED IN RUIDOSO, NM. LOTS OF MEMORIES, PICTURES, BEAUTIFUL VIEWS, NEW TATTOOS FOR ME AND T. JON

AND RACHEL NEVER WOULD COMMIT, A FEW UNRULLY ELK IN DOWNTOWN RUIDOSO AND 1 RUN IN WITH TEXAS HIGHWAY PATROL (FYI DON'T RUN IN THE LEFT LANE UNLESS YOU ARE ACTIVELY PASSING, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THEY WERE LOOKING TO PULL ANYONE OVER FOR ANY REASON THAT DAY. AT LEAST I SAW THE LIGHT FAR ENOUGH AHEAD TO SLOW DOWN UNDER 100)

OCTOBER BROUGHT 1200 MILES IN ARKANSAS FOR BIKES, BLUES, AND BARBECUE. WE SLAYED THE ARKANSAS DRAGON AND THE PIG TRAIL ON THAT TRIP. IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE AREA YOU NEED TO GO CHECK IT OUT. ONCE YOU GET OFF THE INTERSTATE ONTO TWO LANES THERE'S HARDLY A BAD ROAD TO BE FOUND. GAS STATIONS CAN BE SCARCE SO DON'T WAIT FOR THE FUEL LIGHT TO TELL YOU WHEN TO STOP. TRUST ME CHAD JOHNSTON KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE, BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME, LOL.

LOOK FORWARD TO MORE ADVENTURES IN 2026 WITH THIS CHAPTER. GOOD LUCK TO BRANDON AND THE REST OF THE 2026 OFFICER CORE. BIG PLANS ARE IN THE WORKS AND I KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE A GOOD YEAR. I WILL BE STEPPING INTO THE SECRETARY'S ROLE FOR 2026. IN THIS ROLE I WILL BE SENDING OUT ALL CHAPTER DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS VIA TEXT AND EMAIL BLAST. IF YOU NEED ANYTHING SENT OUT JUST LET ME KNOW. ALSO; IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING THESE CURRENTLY LET ME KNOW AND I WILL GET THAT FIXED. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RIDE IN 2026



D/FW TEXAS USA CHAPTER

Chad Johnston
Head Road Captain
chad@dfwhog.com



Hello HOG family! My name is Chad Johnston, and I'm proud to serve as your Head Road Captain. For the past five years, this club has felt like my second home, filled with fellowship, open roads, and unforgettable adventures. I ride a 2018 Ultra Limited, and I live to ride—there's nothing like the thrill of the journey, especially when shared with friends. It's an addiction.

If you haven't joined us on a weekend ride yet, consider this your personal invitation! We hit the road every weekend and there are always plenty of chances to make new memories, explore twisty roads, and enjoy the camaraderie that sets our chapter apart. Whether you're a seasoned rider or just starting out, I hope to see you out there with us soon—because the best rides are the ones we take together.

See you on the road!
Chad Johnston



**D/FW TEXAS USA
CHAPTER –
Membership Officer
Rachel Cox**



I am Rachel Cox, the Membership Officer for DFWHOG. I have been a DFWHOG member since 2021 and have been riding since 2019. I ride a Heritage Classic and enjoy riding with DFWHOG

every chance I get!

I am excited to continue in this role for 2026!

The criteria for DFWHOG membership:

- **Be a Harley Davidson motorcycle (trike) owner.**
- **Have a current National HOG Membership. (Passengers are known as Associates and have their own HOG National Membership.)**

Texas Harley Davidson generously covers DFWHOG chapter membership dues.

The yearly membership tenure for DFWHOG starts in January and continues to December.

Please fill out the new 2026 Membership and Enrollment Form and Release. The 2026 Membership and Enrollment Form and Release can be downloaded from <http://www.dfwhog.com>

Click on the About Us and scroll down to Join the Chapter.

Harley Davidson requires a real ink signature on the 2026 Membership and Enrollment Form and Release. E-signatures or scanned signatures are not allowed.

Let's Ride 2026!

D/FW TEXAS USA CHAPTER

Activities Officers/Road Captains

"If you don't like the weather, just wait a few minutes." – Mark Twain.

Angie Martinez I started riding about four years ago during the pandemic and haven't looked back since! Riding has become a true passion for me, and I've had an amazing time on several road trips with this group—it's always a blast. I'm excited to help plan fun rides and events, and I look forward to sharing many more miles and memories with all of you in 2026!



Here's to great rides, great friends, and unforgettable adventures—let's make it epic!



Patrick Holladay Greetings DFW HOG family! My name is Patrick Holladay, and I've had the pleasure of being part of this chapter since 2018. Over the years, the friendships, laughs, and miles we've shared have come to mean a great deal to me. I ride a 2024 Harley Street Glide named *Charley*, and in 2025 I stepped into the role of a Road Captain. This past year alone, Charley

and I logged over 15,000 miles—and every one of them reminded me why I love riding with this group.

What keeps me coming back each week is the camaraderie and the chance to hit the open road with people who genuinely enjoy the ride. Our weekly outings are a highlight of my schedule, and I'm always looking forward to the next one.

If you haven't joined us yet, I'd love for you to come out and experience it for yourself. There's always room for one more rider, and plenty of good roads ahead.

Hope to see you on the road,
Patrick

See the calendar for updates and new rides posted – Join the shop for Friday lunch rides!

[DFW HOG Calendar](#)

D/FW TEXAS USA CHAPTER – Charities & Ladies of Harley-Co-Chair

Robin Schultz



I joined the D/FW Texas USA Chapter back in 2014 and have been happily involved ever since, taking on several officer roles starting in 2016. Serving as the Charities Officer for the past two years has been incredibly rewarding, and I'm excited to continue in that role. In 2026, I'll also be teaming up with Tera Cromeens as Co-Officer of LOH—something I'm really looking forward to. I currently ride a 2022 Tri-Glide Ultra, my fourth Harley, and I can't wait to share another fun, busy, and memorable year with our Chapter family!

D/FW TEXAS USA CHAPTER – Ladies of Harley-Co-Chair

Tera Cromeens



Hey everyone! I'm your Ladies of Harley Co-Chair, and for the past three years I've been learning to ride, getting more experience and putting the miles on. One of the things I have enjoyed is the encouragement from other members, ladies and men. Advice and words of wisdom, it lets me know they care. The longest trip I've done so far was a 10 day to NM & CO just shy of 3,000 miles. It was amazing trip. I've always loved to travel, and this is a way for Scott & I to travel and we're both enjoying ourselves. I get to see all the new sights and eat at places I've not been before, and he gets to wrack up the miles. I'm all about building strong friendships, supporting other women and stacking up as many miles as possible. Can't wait to share the road—and the adventure—with all of you!

We have a couple events planned for the next few months

January

LOH Dinner, Nizza Pizza January 6th @ 6:30 PM

Bake Sale during the chili cook-off January 17th, bake or buy items to donate

February

Silver Dollar Winery, Art project February 10th More details to come!

March

St Patty's Day Poker Run, Bake Sale at Texas HD - More information coming...



D/FW TEXAS USA CHAPTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Let's welcome Gauge, you may have seen him around the dealership over the last year. I met him last year at our chili cook-off and he has been volunteering, making burgers for H.O.G. on Saturdays with his husband. Gauge is three years into his Harley journey, and like most good stories, it didn't start alone — it started with love. He began riding after marrying his husband, swapping passenger seats for handlebars and finding a freedom he didn't know he was missing.

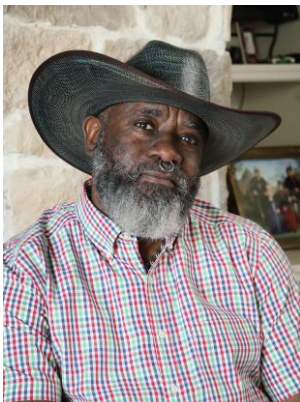
Life hasn't made riding easy. Gauge is the full-time caregiver for his 87-year-old grandmother living with dementia — a role that requires patience, presence, and strength of a different kind. Because of that, the time he gets in the saddle is earned, cherished, and never taken for granted.

He hasn't hit a long-distance route yet, but the road ahead is already calling. His first big goal: The Twisted Sisters, where the hills and curves are waiting to be tamed. Beyond that, he's got a long-game mission — to visit every Harley-Davidson dealer in Texas over the next 3–5 years.

Gauge rides for freedom, connection, and the kind of peace only found behind the bars of a Harley.

He may be early in the journey —
but the fire's lit, the road's open,
and he's not slowing down.

If you haven't met Gauge yet, take a minute the next time
you're around to say hello!





Calendar/Activities

January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026
Chapter Meeting Jan. 3rd	Chapter Meeting Feb. 7th	Chapter Meeting Mar. 7th	Chapter Meeting Apr. 4 th
Dinner Ride 15th			
Chapter Chili Cook-off 17 th	Grand Tour of Texas Packet Pickup, Meet @ TXHD 20th	Pi Day Ride 14th	
Long Road To LOCO 24th		Thunder in the Hill Country Rally 27th	

2026 H.O.G. Rally & Event Registration is Open

Registration is now open for H.O.G.'s 2026 touring and regional rallies H.O.G. Please share the schedule with your chapter members so they can begin H.O.G. planning for a great season of epic riding memories.

Touring Rallies

- Run to Daytona H.O.G. Touring Rally, Virginia Beach, VA to St Augustine, FL, February 23-27
- Spring Heat H.O.G. Touring Rally, Santa Clarita, CA to Chandler, AZ, April 3-7
- Route 66 East H.O.G. Touring Rally, Milwaukee to Amarillo, TX, May 16-22
- Open Road Posse Ride, Durango, CO to Mandan, ND, June 10-22

- 10 State H.O.G. Touring Rally, Lakeville, MN to Bossier City, LA, August 17-22
- Tour of Valor H.O.G. Touring Rally – Mobile, AL to Madison, WI, September 1-9
- Route 66 West H.O.G. Touring Rally, Amarillo, TX to Marina Del Ray, CA, September 22-28
- Ride Home H.O.G. Touring Rally, Hickory, NC to H-D Museum, Milwaukee, WI, October 14-19

H.O.G. Regional Rallies

- Cajun Country Regional H.O.G. Rally, Scott, LA, April 16-18
- Smoky Mountain Regional H.O.G. Rally, Maryville, TN, May 27-30
- Great Lakes Regional H.O.G. Rally, Chippewa Falls, WI, June 11-13
- Rocky Mountain Regional H.O.G. Rally, Durango, CO, June 11-13
- Blue Ridge Rumble Regional H.O.G. Rally, Winchester, VA, June 17-20
- Iron Adventure Regional H.O.G. Rally, New England, July 16-18
- Cruisin the Catskills Regional H.O.G. Rally, Hunter Mountain, NY, July 23-25
- H.O.G. National Rally, Branson, MO, September 9-12

15 for '26 Ride Destinations

- O.K. Corral, Tombstone, AZ
- Route 66 - End of the Trail, Santa Monica, CA
- Nation's Smallest Post Office, Ochopee, FL
- Gemini Giant, Wilmington, IL
- Bridge of Flowers, Shelburne Falls, MA
- Jolly Green Giant statue, Blue Earth, MN
- Uranus Missouri Towne Center, St. Robert, MO
- Wright Brothers National Memorial, Kill Devil Hills, NC
- Big Muskie Bucket, McConnelsville, OH
- Blue Whale of Catoosa, Catoosa, OK
- Historic Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, Petros, TN
- Cadillac Ranch, Amarillo, TX
- Iwo Jima Marine Memorial, Arlington, VA
- Wisconsin's Dragon, Gays Mills, WI
- Leavenworth, WA

D/FW Texas USA Chapter

Chapter Chatter
D/FW Texas USA
Chapter #5264

Chapter Chatter
Texas Harley Davidson
1 Texas Harley Way
Bedford, TX 76021
Metro (817) 267-2646
www.texasharley.com

READ THIS NOTICE: The officers of the D/FW Texas USA Chapter hereby advise that any and all rides, runs, events, and activities sponsored by this Chapter are solely intended for the benefit and participation of our current members and guests (limit of one guest per member). Members are responsible for ensuring that their guest has properly executed the release form and on file with the Chapter. Nothing in this newsletter should be construed to mean that non-current, former members and/or members of the general public are invited to participate in these activities and/or ride motorcycles with this Chapter unless it is specifically so stated. No Chapter member may operate a motorcycle at a Chapter event or activity unless that member is legally licensed to do so, and that motorcycle is properly licensed, inspected, and insured. Members participate in any and all published activities and meetings at their own risk. The D/FW Texas USA Chapter, its officers, and sponsor assume no liability or responsibility for any persons, Chapter member or otherwise, at any ride or function.

Check us out on Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/dfwhog>